

The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 5575.—VOL XXXVII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1856.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

CERMONY GARDENS, Robertson's Point.—A steamer will leave the Circular Quay at one o'clock on SATURDAY, and during the Easter Holidays, for these beautiful grounds, and will continue to ply every half-hour during the remainder of the day.

NEWCASTLE FERRY TO BALMAIN.—The steamer "MATHILDE" (the first of the three iron boats intended for the above Ferry), will continue to ply from the Grafton Wharf, adjoining Flour Company's and Cuthbert's Office, to Circular Quay, Saturday, First boat from Sydney at 12 m. m.; last ditto, 10 p.m.

WATERVIEW DRY COLD FERRY, BALMAIN.—The hours from the Dock and half-hours from the Paramatta steamer, Wharf, sailing at Lake's Wharf.

STEAM TO BALMAIN, by the "Globe" Company's steamer, which every half-hour.

STEAM TO MANLY BEACH.—The VICTORIA, THE MORNING, 10 a.m., sailing Woodstock Bay, and returning from Elieaville at 11 (noon) and at 5.30 p.m., children, £1; children, £1.50.

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STEAM EXCURSION TO WOLLONGONG.—The ILLAWARRA, to-morrow (Saturday) morning at 9 o'clock, returning on Monday.

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STEAM TO KIAMA AND SHOALHAVEN.—Consequent upon this being Good Friday, the NOR'S CRIMA, leaving Circular Quay at 10 a.m., will sail direct to Kiama, and will not stop, until such time as the steamer "Kiwana" and "Shoalhaven" will leave for Kiama and Shoalhaven. All freight to be paid in Sydney. "Circular Quay," March 17.

STEAM TO THE HUNTER.—The powerful mail steamer "BONNY" (Capt. E. L. PATTERSON, to-morrow this EVENING) at 10 a.m.

TEMBROOK REDUCTION OF F.E.R.Y. FOR THE HUNTER RIVER NEW STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S VESSELS to and from SYDNEY and MURVILLE.—The steamer "WILLIAM OSWALD," F. R. BAKER, Commander, and "THOMAS WILSON," D. HARLING, commander. The PATTERSON, E. L. Patterson, commander.

STEAM TO THE HUNTER.—Still further reduction of fares. To be paid by the A. S. N. Company's Hunter River Steamer, having been converted to Maitland, per omnibus, free of additional charge.

STEAM TO THE HUNTER.—The steamer "WILLIAM OSWALD," F. R. BAKER, Commander, THIS EVENING, at 10 a.m.

JAMES PATTERSON, manager.

STEAM TO MORETON BAY and IPWICH.—The A. S. N. Co.'s steamer "WATKIN" on WEDNESDAY, 25th instant, at 10 a.m.

STEAM TO THE HUNTER.—The steamer "WATKIN" on WEDNESDAY.—Passenger and goods landed at the Hayley Pier, and conveyed to Maitland by rail, free of additional charge. The A. S. N. Company's iron clipper steamer "WATKIN" will be ready to sail on WEDNESDAY, 25th instant, at 3 p.m., repeated as above on SATURDAY, 28th instant, at 3 p.m., per omnibus to and from Maitland.

JAMES PATTERSON, manager.

STEAM TO WIDE BAY.—The A. S. N. Co.'s steamer "YARRA YARRA" YARRA, 25th instant, at 3 p.m.

STEAM TO THE HUNTER.—The steamer "YARRA YARRA" YARRA, 25th instant, at 3 p.m.

TO SAIL, FULLY.—3 p.m.—STEAM TO MELBOURNE.—Passenger and goods landed at the Hayley Pier, and conveyed to Melbourne by rail, free of additional charge. The A. S. N. Company's iron clipper steamer "YARRA YARRA" YARRA, 25th instant, at 3 p.m., repeated as above on SATURDAY, 28th instant, at 3 p.m., per omnibus to and from Maitland.

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TASMANIA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]
MARCH 12.—The report of Mr. Spreat's survey of the country between Hobart and Launceston, in reference to the proposed railway, has been published; the result is, that such an undertaking is practicable; he examined two and a half miles, the one easterly, through the valley of the Coal River, the other westerly, through the valleys of the Jordan. The hilliness of the country will cause considerable difficulty and expense, and I fear that the undertaking is at present beyond our strength. Mr. Spreat offers to visit Sydney at his own expense to obtain practical information on the subject, a step which appears very desirable.

The Luton Corporation have fixed upon a plan for supplying every house in the town with water, which is estimated to cost £29,000. There is, however, some difficulty to raise the money, as the corporation propose to let it at a debenture of £20 each, at 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly. The government will guarantee the payment of the interest, so that there ought to be little difficulty in obtaining that sum, but we have so long lived under Governments whose promises could not be trusted, that people are even dubious now of the moral security of that quarter. For fourteen years past, every Governor has taken up these water works, placed them in abeyance, and relinquished them, in spite of a abundance of cheap labour and means at their command at one time, nothing was done. Such has been Downing-street rule.

A requisition for the Lower House has been presented to Mr. Champ, signed by about 200 electors of Luton, and he has accepted the invitation, and will, no doubt, be returned.

Jack Cade has made his appearance at Hobart, and is now continuing his tour. He is, we are told, to be the representative of the working classes, and offer themselves as candidates for the representation of the city in the Lower House. They commence with an attack on those tyrants and "aristocrats," the members of the late Council, who have actually passed the Constitution Bill, abolishing the property qualification, so that any working man may now become a representative, and make the most effectual use of his knowledge, especially to publicans, whom they are known to patronise in an especial manner. Though they offer to "stand" for the city, I doubt whether they would be able for many days together to maintain that position—falling is much more in their line. Hollis having lately been cook to the honourable member for the Huon has no doubt imbibed from that gentleman a taste for legislation. I will merely add that the respectable working-classes have neither given encouragement nor invited him to continue in their ranks.

The requisitions to Messrs. T. D. Chapman and R. W. Nutt have not been presented yet, but are already signed by a very large number of citizens, and when published will show in what high estimation these gentlemen, and especially the former, are held by men of all parties.

Before leaving the colony Mr. R. Day was presented with a token of respect by the children of Hobart, and his wife and her husband were presented to Mrs. Day by some of the electors at Launceston, headed by the Mayor.

Mr. Foster, accountant of stores, has been appointed assistant police magistrate for Hobart; Mr. G. B. Forster, of Brighton, will go as police magistrate to Bothwell, and Brighton will be united to the police district of Oatlands, under Mr. Whiteford.

The attempt to smuggle, and the seizure of the 1,800 ounces of gold at Melbourne, and the 1,800 ounces of gold at Hobart, have given the public a horrible idea of what is possible. There is little doubt that this system of fraud has been carried on for some time. The Customs at Melbourne received information that much larger quantities of gold were imported here than were entered out at Melbourne, and hence the ultimate detection.

A report was spread here that gold had been found at Avoca in quantities, but it is not true, and seems to have been spread by some house agents to enhance the price of property in the city, which had to be sold.

There is an increase in the revenue for the quarter ending 31st December, 1855, as compared with the same in 1854. The former is £293,747 14s. 1d.; the latter only £27,713 6s. 6d. The difference arises mainly from the land sales, which are £14,346 more.

The Immigration Commissioners have fixed the passes and monthly on-bounty tickets for England at £15; and from Germany at £15 per head. Female servants are again very scarce, but there is no demand for mechanics and agricultural labour—moreover, many of the immigrants introduced last year are secretly leaving the colony. Under these circumstances, I question the propriety of the colony expending £100,000 on immigration this year—the sum voted for that purpose.

The Municipal Council of Hobart Town have over-drawn their account £20,000, and require £22,600 more to carry on their works; the bank wrote a bond signed by all the aldermen.

There has been a sale of Crown Lands at Launceston. However, there were but few buyers.

The iron suspension bridge originally ordered for Perth, is not to be used now for that locality, and the people of the Huon are petitioning the Government to place it over the Ironstone Creek, which would be of great advantage to that district.

Miss Hayes gave a concert before leaving Launceston in aid of the Benevolent Society, and the Cornwall Hospital. Strange, that people must have a song before they will aid suffering humanity.

There have been three suicides last week. One is a very distressing case. A Mr. Holland had been long employed as salesman by a firm of wine and spirit merchants. His wife had lately arrived from England, and was staying at a public-house. He had lost his situation, and had had a bad day. He came to see his master, and after speaking to her affectionately, first cut her throat with a sciss., and then his own. The unhappy man died next day, but his wife is recovering.

Mr. Johnson, the clerk of Messrs. Ducroz and Co., has been found guilty of embezzlement, and condemned to two years' imprisonment and hard labour.

A number of appeals have been heard by the magistrates against the decisions refusing licences for public houses, and the previous decisions were all confirmed.

The suits brought for the public-house system have every day more apparent, and the magistrates more determined to check the evil.

The Annual Bazaar in aid of the Colonial Missionary Society, has been held, and produced £300.

The friends of Rev. T. Gelibrand intend to hold a bazaar towards the building fund of his church.

Tenders are invited for the erection of a Congregational Church in Davey-street.

A public meeting of the London Missionary Society has been held at Launceston. The collections amounted to £10.

There are various notices of meetings in aid of the Sustentation Fund, and nowhere a statement of any moneys received which does not augur favourably for the scheme. The Courier, however, says that the account it has received are favourable. Time will tell.

The Launceston Steam Navigation Company has reduced the cabin fares to Melbourne to £5.

Flour may now be quoted at £30, and wheat at £10.

At a half-yearly meeting of managers of the Hobart Town Savings' Bank, held on the 7th instant, H. Hopkins in the chair, an audited statement of the accounts for the half-year just ended was submitted by the actuary, and approved and adopted by the meeting. The following summary of the transactions was ordered to be published for general information:—Number of accounts opened since the commencement of the Bank, 1,200; Total amount of deposits from ditto, £551,143 12s. 3d. Total amount of repayments from ditto, £412,618 4d. Average amount of each person's deposit from ditto, £30 17s. 4d. Average amount of repayments, to each depositor from ditto, £21 18s. 6d. Number of accounts open on the 1st instant, 3388. Average amount to the credit of each depositor on the 1st instant, £30 6s. 10d. Total amount to the credit of depositors during the last six months, £590 10s. 4d. Total amount deposited during the last six months, £416 15s. 10d. Total amount of repayments during ditto, £40,810 0s. 4d. Afterpayment of expenses and allowance of interest to depositors at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deposits of the last half-year, the sum of £196 4s. 1d. was added to the reserve fund, which now amounts to £2323 5s. 8d.

A HINT TO ALL.—An idiot, meeting with one of the strolling organ-players, was inclined to engage in conversation with him, and asked him, "What part in the drama of life do you perform?" "I mind my own business," was the brief and pointed reply.

In giving evidence in a case of burglary which came before the county magistrates at Ashton-under-Lyne, the other day, Mr. Marland, a pawnbroker, who is also a member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, more easily picked with the key in the lock than without. He could pick nearly any lock with a piece of wire, if the key were left in the lock; and knowing that, he always took the keys out of the doors.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

INDIA.
THE RETROSPECT OF 1855.
(From the Friend of India, 3rd January.)

THROUGHOUT the year the sound of the cannon before Sebastopol has reverberated in India. The effect of the Russian war has been felt in every transaction. It increased the cost of trade, and raised the price of food to the native community. It crippled the money market, and interrupted a great financial operation. Even the few foreign transactions have been guided almost entirely by a desire to provide for the possible contingencies of the struggle. Early in the year, the rumours of a Russian movement in Central Asia, became more and more distinct. The source of these rumours has never been revealed, nor can we even venture to determine the exact amount of truth they may contain. They suffice, however, to create considerable anxiety as to the position of the States, and our own. At the first general election, there will be a difficulty in finding suitable candidates, for as eighteen members will have to be chosen at once, there ought to be little difficulty in obtaining that sum, but we have so long lived under Governments whose promises could not be trusted, that people are even dubious now of the moral security of that quarter. For fourteen years past, every Governor has taken up these water works, placed them in abeyance, and relinquished them, in spite of a abundance of cheap labour and means at their command at one time, nothing was done. Such has been Downing-street rule.

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The Council has agreed, though not without some difficulty, to some changes in steam communication previously made by the words of the Treaty of 1853, through which it was given to Port-Philip to act as a port of call, and to receive free distilled spirits. The effect of creating a maximum price for wheat, for it has been shown that grain could probably be distilled in the colony even if wheat were two shillings a bushel. If free distillation were allowed, it would injure the revenue just in proportion as it was successful, and the deficit could only be made up by a very undesirable increase in the duties on tea, coffee, and sugar.

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Nevertheless, many improvements have been achieved. Several of them we have noticed in our review of legal reform. Of the rest perhaps the one of most general importance is the reform in the municipal government of the sultans. Though far from complete, it has taken a great step in advance. Before this year, the local finances were in a state of great confusion. The revenues derived from the tolls on rivers, once offered to M. Larreault as a bonus bouche, were swept up into the General Treasury. The funds accumulated from the ferries were expended, not for the benefit of the country, and not for the benefit of the sultans which contributed them, but for the benefit of any class of sultans, which happened to be under their command or supervision. The sultans were in absolute power, without plan or object. A knot of officials who might or might not take an interest in the work, but who in any case were irresponsible, devoted it to almost any purpose they pleased. The work when ordered was left to the native contractor. If a member of the Committee chose to look after it, it was well done. If otherwise, it was badly done. In either case, nobody cared except the contractor, whose interests were equally opposed to sufficient supervision. All these evils except one have been thoroughly reformed. The river funds and ferry funds have been thrown together. Each sultan is allowed a budget, a fixed sum to be expended on certain undertakings previously sanctioned. Each work is to be supervised by some one, whose business it is that supervision and whose share of bread and cheese will be diminished by the supervision being badly done. The local committees have not, however, been swept away.

Provision also has been made for clearing off the arrears in the Sudder Court, which had become a positive impediment to justice. Three new Judges have been appointed to this special duty. They form a special Court for the trial of the arrear cases, the original Court thus beginning service with a clean slate. Our next retrospective will hope to notice the action of the Sudder and Court Committees. The Gas Company, organized in 1854, has been fairly at work at Calcutta during the year, and despite the death of M. Jules Dauzé, its engineer, has completed its preliminary operations. The trade of the country has also received its measure of attention. The great project for carrying off a portion of the trade through the Mutla, has become a fixed idea. Chamber of Commerce petitioned Government to buoy off the Creek. The request was instantly granted, and the work had been commenced at the nose of the creek. The possibility of creating a new port on the Behar Halla, and the other streams which intersect the rich Eastern districts has also been discussed, but as yet without result.

Among administrative improvements of more general interest, the education department stands foremost.

Its work both in Bengal and the North West Provinces may be said to have commenced with the year.

The amount of work accomplished has, however, been small. The difficulties of finding a teacher, and no tradition, and no set routine.

It has been occupied therefore in discovering the work to be done, and the best method of doing it, and in both objects it has been most active and vigilant. A large

portion of Bengal, and much of Behar has been visited. The existing means of instruction have been examined and tested. The objects and scope of the new measures have been explained to the people, and an effort has been made to interest which is itself of slight assistance to success. Vernacular schools have been established in the Metropolitan districts. Vernacular journals have been set up, both in Bengal and Behar. Grants-in-Aid have been made both for Bengal and Behar, and though all this work is as yet purely experimental, a beginning has been made. The year may, as respects this department, be called "The year of the beginning of great things." No positive success has been recorded, but much has been accomplished. There is nothing visible, but the work must have laid the rubbish for the foundation.

Several reforms conceived and begun during 1854, have come into operation within the year. The Military Board long since condemned by public opinion perished on the 30th April. In its place arose three offices, the Secretary of Public Works, the Commissary General, and the Commissary-General of Ordnance. The first office has been the most successful. It has enabled Government to introduce a system of presidency budgets which had begun to be essential in the empire. Each presidency has been allotted a sum, and the statement of the new works its Government deems it expedient to undertake, and of the expenditure required during the year for works already sanctioned. The list thus drawn up is submitted to the secretary, and is by him revised, tested, and commented on. It is then submitted to Council, which, aided by the professional experience of the relative departments, form a fair idea of the relative position importance of each item, and the undertaken. On the 1st May, the budget is signed. No further sanction is required. No new works can be undertaken, and thus the Council retains to the full all its control over the Imperial finances. The only defects of the system apparent during the year have been firstly a disposition to sanction expenditure through ignorance, and secondly, a desire to carry the budget system into the petitioned works. The first defect involves a total and absolute dependence of the treasury in the local authority. The second occasionally delays work of pressing urgency, and small expense. As yet neither defect has produced any result of material importance. The other offices have not as yet been equally successful. Both Commissaries have been greatly afraid of responsibility. In the new system of accounts, too, simplicity has been sacrificed to elaboration. The weight of numerous forms, schedules, and writing of all kinds crushes the officers of the department. Everything has been delayed, and outsiders weary of absurdities have greeted the old Military Board. It has, however, by no means been proved that the new system is a failure. The absurdities engrafted on it may be cleared off. The complications may be simplified by an individual as well as by a Board, and at all events responsibility is distinctly given.

Throughout the year, the attention of the public has been earnestly called to an evil hitherto unprecedented in the history of India. The Empire has grown too vast for the services to whom it is entrusted. The facts produced are sufficiently striking. During the single reign of Lord Dalhousie, three great kingdoms have been added to our territories. Not one soldier has been added to the army. A number of new departments for Public Works, the Telegraph, Education, the Post Office, and other duties have been created. The number of civil officers has positively decreased. The terms of leave have been rendered much more favourable. There are more officers sick, more absent on furlough, more withdrawn for staff and civil employ. The army, therefore, has not only not been strengthened, but has been positively weakened. The want of events in weeks it still further. The want of men for supervision has begun to check new public works. The want of men stops the extension of justice to every home. The want of men delays Mysore reform, and lastly, the want of men is daily compelling government to entrust important duties to younger and weaker men.

The medical service is almost equally deficient.

Districts are entrusted to natives. The services of surgeons of ships are accepted with alacrity.

Many stations have been left without a surgeon, and in the new provinces scarcely one is to be found. The Pilot service is utterly unequal to its work. Its members are overwhelmed by incessant labour. Vessels by the score have been detained at the dangerous sandheads, and if trade has not suffered, the mercantile community has paid in half the delay. Applications have been made to the government for the reduction of this enormous evil, but the result is not among the best.

Lastly, in physical improvement, we have little that is striking to record. The year has been consumed in that silent, uneventful activity, which prepares the way for magnificent results. The only undertaking in which we can record progress evident to the eye, is the railway. On the 3rd of February that railway was officially inaugurated. The line from Calcutta to Rangoon is now formally open, and throughout the year there has been a steady increase. In the first six months of the year, the number conveyed by railway amounted to 205,445. Of these there were

First

3572

Second

10,700

Third

193,867

Of the amount paid,

Excess.

First class contributed

14,390

Second

34,094

Third

183,619

The proportion of fares, therefore, received from the third class amounts to 72 per cent. upon the total.

During the year the works in Bengal have been impeded by the Sonthal insurrection, and an unusually severe rainy season. It is, however, calculated that more than a clear fourth of the work remaining to be done between Burdwan and the the Kurumna has been accomplished. In the North-West more has been effected. The line from Peshawar to Oudh is nearly one-third complete. The southernmost sections are still more forward, and it has been announced almost officially that the line will be opened in 1857.

THE OPIUM TRADE: ITS BANEFUL EFFECTS.

CONCLUDING ARTICLE.

The evils arising from the opium traffic are of three kinds—financial, physical, and moral; on the first of these we are disposed to lay little stress. That the financial evils fall in some measure on the producer, the preceding figures and reasoning will show. In addition to what has been already stated, it may be observed that the monopoly of Bengal opium is far from being such a productive source of revenue as has been supposed, from the simple fact of its being a government monopoly, and therefore much deficient in the economy of production. Besides which it is insecure, the Indian government having no control whatever over the consumption, and by a sudden accident, as in 1839, its finances may become deranged by the trade being stopped, and the whole supply of opium thrown upon their hands. But still it is said the Indian government do derive a considerable revenue from the drug equal to about three millions sterling. When appealed to on the subject, the answer has been: "We would gladly, in compassion to mankind, put a total end to the consumption of opium if we could, but in the present state of the revenue of India it does not appear advisable to abandon so important a source of revenue; particularly as the duty upon opium falls principally upon the foreign consumer."

Regarding the physical evils of opium much has been said, to the purpose, in some instances, and beyond the mark in others. The writer is obliged to a medical friend for the few remarks which follow:—

"The preparation of the drug may be briefly noticed, as consisting of several decoctions of the raw material, which are strained, and the clear liquor evaporated, until the resulting extract is of a proper spissitude, about which persons are said to use 10 drams daily, but these are only the superior classes, who have no need to attend to any business or occupation, and can spend almost their whole time in intoxicating themselves with the use of the drug, or in recovering from its effects. The life of such persons is not prolonged, and the many complaints arising from the excessive indulgence soon put an end to their useless existence."

Besides the cases of death arising from the excessive use of opium among the higher classes, who can afford to gorge themselves with their stimulant till they die, there are many more unhappy dissolutions arising from the inability to procure the accustomed, and to them necessary, quantity. In the case of those who are in middling circumstances, and get inured to the habit, the enervating effects are such that they become after a time unable to attend to their ordinary avocations. They then lose their situations or their business fails, and they are reduced to necessity. Gradually they part with their little property, furniture, clothes, &c., until they come to the level of the labouring poor, without those energetic habits which might otherwise form the ground of support. Among the lower classes, those who indulge in the use of opium are reduced to abject poverty sooner than the preceding. Having no property, furniture, or clothes to dispose of, their wives and children are sold to supply their ever-increasing appetite for the drug, and, when these are gone, with greatly diminished strength for labour, they can no longer earn sufficient for their own wants, and are obliged to beg for their daily bread. As to the supply of opium, they must depend, as above stated, on the scrapings of other men's pipes, and as soon as they are unable by begging to obtain the necessities of life, together with the half-burnt opium on which their very life depends, they droop and die by the roadside, and are buried by the charity of those who would lead them to refrain from the traffic. Both of these would teach you that you are not to benefit yourselves to the injury of others."

"The person who is about to smoke reclines on a couch, resting his head on a pillow: with one hand he holds the pipe, taking the mouth-piece between his lips; with the other hand he takes up a small portion of the extract, and applies it to the little nozzle on the pipe's head, with a pointed steel wire or long needle, at the same time holding the nozzle directly over the flame of a lamp, making a deep inspiration, so that the fumes of the drug pass into the lungs. This is said to be unpleasant to those who first use the pipe, but they soon get over it. The fumes after being retained for a short time, are allowed to pass away by the mouth and nostrils. Another application of the extract is then made as before, which is continued for a longer or shorter time, according to the effect wished to be produced.

"When a smoker first commences the use of opium, as has been noticed above, it is a pleasant and refreshing stimulant; an artificial vigour and tone are given to the system, followed by a corresponding relaxation and listlessness; after which an effort is made to remove the latter by a return to the pipe. This stage in the smoker's progress may be prolonged for some years, without the health being interfered with; but he soon becomes a victim to the habit thus formed, which cannot easily be shaken off: the strength, however, is not impaired, and attention can be paid to business as usual, indeed the stimulus of the drug enables him to enter with vivacity upon any pursuit in which he may be engaged. At this time a little decision would enable him to throw off the habit, but this is seldom called for, and the smoker continues to use his pipe, and to accustom himself more and more to dependence on his much-loved indulgence. By-and-by retribution comes, he cannot live comfortably without the stimulant; all the pleasure has gone, but he must obtain relief from the pain of body and dissipation of mind, which follow the absence of the drug, at any cost; the quantity of drug called for being from time to time greater and more frequent.

"Among the symptoms that present themselves are griping pains in the bowels, pain in the limbs, loss of appetite, so that the smoker can only eat dainty food; disturbed sleep, and general emaciation. The outward appearances are sallowness of the complexion, bloodless cheeks and lips, sunken eye, with a dark circle round the eyelids, and altogether a haggard countenance. There is a peculiar appearance of the face of a smoker, not noticed in any other condition; the skin assumes a pale waxy appearance, and as if all the fat were removed from beneath the skin. The hollows of the countenance, the eyelids, root of the alaenisa, fissure and corners of lips, depression at the angle of the jaw, temples, &c., take on a peculiar dark appearance, not like that resulting from various chronic diseases, but as if some dark matter were deposited beneath the skin. There is also a fullness and protusion of the lips, arising perhaps from the continued use of the large mouth-piece peculiar to the opium pipe. In fine, a confirmed opium-smoker presents a most melancholy appearance, haggard, dejected, with a lack-lustre eye, and a slovenly, weakly, and feeble gait.

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"Day by day, and year by year, the practice of opium smoking prevails more and more among this people, and by-and-by it will doubtless have a powerful effect on the destinies of the country. It is said that the late emperor used the drug; it is certain that most of the government officers do, and their innumerable attendants are in the same category. Opium is used as a luxury by all classes, and to a great extent; indeed so great that it cannot fail to exhibit its effects speedily upon the mass of the inhabitants.

"In rich families, even if the head of the house does not use the drug, the sons soon learn to use it, and almost all are exposed to the temptation of employing it, as many of their friends and acquaintances are in the habit of smoking, and it is considered a mark of politeness to offer the pipe to a friend or visitor. Many persons fly to the use of the pipe when they get into trouble, and when they are afflicted with chronic or painful diseases, sleeplessness, &c. Several persons who have been attended for malignant tumours, were made victims of the drug, by the use of it to alleviate the pain and distress they had to endure. The beggars are to a great extent under its influence, but they use the drugs and scrapings only of the half-consumed drug, which is removed from the pipe head when it is cleaned.

"But the most common cause of the Chinese resorting to the use of the opium-pipe is not knowing how to employ their leisure hours. When the business of the day is over, there is no periodical literature to engage their attention, their families do not present sufficient attractions to keep them at home, and sauntering about of an evening, with nothing to employ the mind, they are easily tempted into the opium shop, where one acquaintance or another is sure to be found who invites to the use of the drug.

"As the use of the pipe grows upon a person, a great change is effected in its relation to the smoker; he originally took it to produce pleasure, he has now to take it to give freedom from pain; and soothe the series of evils consequent on the habit he has acquired. Till he has had his pipe in the morning he is listless and uncomfortable, cares not for eating, nor indeed feels unlike himself till he has had his smoke.

"There is perhaps no form of intemperance more seducing than the use of opium, nor is there any more difficult to be delivered from. To acquire a full acquaintance with the effects of the agent, the consequences of which are now being discussed, is necessary to view it under two forms: 1st. As to its incipient effects, in the stage of exhilaration, while the individual is in good health, and the powers of life are in full vigour; at this time the drug is a means of enjoyment. 2ndly, As to the effects produced by the drug when it is employed as a means of relief from the distress and pain resulting from the long-continued use of such a stimulant. This may be called the stage of depression; in this condition the individual soon becomes a martyr to his former vices, and bitterly repents of his having submitted to the temptation.

"When the pipe is first taken, during the incipient stage, a few grains are sufficient to produce the full effect. This small quantity requires to be gradually increased to produce a given result; the times of using it must become more frequent, until the victim is soon compelled to use one dram, or 60 grains, in the course of twenty-four hours. This quantity per day will supply the smoker for some years, but it has at last to be augmented, till 2, 3, 4, and even 5 drams are daily consumed. This may be denominated the second stage."

Some are said to use 10 drams daily, but these are only the superior classes, who have no need to attend to any business or occupation, and can spend almost their whole time in intoxicating themselves with the use of the drug, or in recovering from its effects. The life of such persons is not prolonged, and the many complaints arising from the excessive indulgence soon put an end to their useless existence.

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GENERAL NOTICE.

THREE AGENTS of this Journal in various parts of the colony are as follows:-

WURRUN.—
Parraamatta—Mr. Mason.
Ryde—Mr. George Pope.
Windorah—Mr. John White.
Parramatta and St. Mary's, South Creek—Mr. C. O'Connell.
Mortuary, Campbellfield—Mr. John Lehman.
Bathurst, Goulburn, Wellington, and O'Connell Plains—Mr. G. W. Croker.
Goulburn—Mr. John Dickson.
Sobroona—Mr. Charles Hibberd.
Liverpool—Mr. Ernest Goertz.
Gosford, Wollongong and Portion—Maurer, Simpson, Brothers.
Appin—Mr. George Joll.
Berriwana—Mr. Joseph Levy.
Goulburn, Marulan, and Bungonia—Mr. Robert Craig.
Goulburn—Mr. John Wright.
Vasse—Mr. Thomas Laddow.
Bradwood—Mr. A. Vider.
Gundagai—Mr. John Morris.
Melbourne—Mr. John Cooper.
Goulburn—Mr. Thomas Paterson.
Wollongong—Mr. John M. Hewitt.
Hastings—Mr. John Green.
Hastings, Goulburn, Hinton, Heatham, Dungog, Newcastle, Morpeth, and Wollomombi—Mr. A. Dadds.
Paterson—Mr. W. H. Scott.
Raymond-Terrace—Mr. Edmund Doherty.
Albury—Mr. Henry Ringwood.
Murrurundi—Mr. John Lumley.
Murrurundi, and Armidale—Mr. A. A. Brodie.
Tasmania—Mr. J. Coghlan.
Port Macquarie—Mr. H. Toller.
Goulburn—Mr. Thos. L. Scott.
Gosford—Mr. H. Hetherington, South Grafton.
Gladstone, Port Curtis—Mr. B. Hetherington.
Wide Bay—Mr. A. Walker, Postmaster.
Maitland—Mr. J. C. Coghlan.
Robert Town—Messrs. Buchan and Co., bookbinders Launceston—Mr. G. Spicer.
Eden Park, and Bombo, Cooma—Mr. H. Kesterton.
Adelaide—Mr. Nathaniel Summers.
Auckland, New Zealand—Captain Bowden.
The Agents are furnished with the usual yellow receipts, signed by themselves, or by John Fairfax, and none others are allowed to sign on their behalf.

COLONIAL INSURANCE.

RATES GREATLY REDUCED.

THE INSURANCE COMPANY,

INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE.

The above Company will receive applications for the INSURANCE OF HOUSES and other BUILDINGS, MERCHANTABLE and MANUFACTURING STOCKS, every description, in town or country, at reasonable rates of premium.

THE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY IS £200,000.

With power to increase the amount to meet the business of the Company.

The list of Shareholders is open to public inspection, and persons may obtain all other information respecting the Company will make a written application to the Directors.

At present it is intended that the conveniences of Colours shall be consulted by the Company, persons anxious to insure their property will be advised to do so through the Directors, who will be responsible for the same.

When it is necessary, a deposit will be received at once for insuring property until the next meeting of the Board of Directors; the amount will be considered part of the premium on more regular insurance being effected, or returned if the application is withdrawn.

The business of the old Sydney Fire Insurance Company will be transferred, as soon as possible, to the new Company, and the names of the shareholders will be changed, and the reduced rates than were taken formerly, so that greater convenience will be afforded them, and there will be no liability upon the Company for any loss.

There is a reserve of £5000 for the payment of claims for the next six months, or sooner, to parties insuring and making special application for them. The Directors of the Board of Directors will be responsible for the same, to whom, according to the amounts of insurance applied for or otherwise.

The present Company has been founded with the view of securing a large proportion of the diversified and useful business—especially colonial—and to preserve the income of the old Company from passing into the hands of the shareholders, and thereby becoming a loss to the country generally.

The Fire Insurance Engines are stationed at Mr. BROWN'S, Pitt-street, where night and day, and when required, the Company will reward any persons exerting themselves to give early information and in cases where damage is prevented by their services.

Buildings—metal or slated roof, stone or brick, &c. &c. and upwards.

Buildings—slighted ditto, ditto ditto, &c. &c. and upwards.

Wooden buildings—timbered roof, &c. &c. and upwards.

Wooden ditto, shingled, special.

DRUGS, JOHN FAIRFAX, Chairman.

JOHN FAIRFAX, Esq., Deputy Chairman.

M. E. MURKIN, Esq.

A. M. CAMPBELL, Esq.

FREDERICK BISHOP, Esq.

THOMAS HUEY, Esq.

JAMES HUTCHINSON, Esq.

JAMES SUTHERLAND MITCHELL, Esq.

John F. Bridges, Esq., near George-street, Sydney.

Country Agents will receive applications and re-

plies from persons wishing to insure.—

Malcolm, J. Dodds, Esq.

Robertson, R. S. Farquhar, Esq.

Goulburn—R. Craig, Esq.

Windsor—D. Davison, Esq.

Merton Bay—Henry Buckley, Esq.

Darling—P. McWilliam.

Liverpool—J. Mason, Esq.

Perth—Moore, Walker and Smith.

Perth—J. M. Moore, Esq.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL LIFE PROVIDENT CO-OP. established with important principles under the Act of Council! Fixt. No. 10, and 1st Fixt. No. for granting Assurance on Lives, Present, Deferred, and Reversionary Assurance, and Benefits for an interval of 150 years of Standard Assurances by an amount of £100 per annum and subject to the second of Mutual Assurance and Reversionary division of the whole of the sum of the members.

Chairman—THOMAS HOLT, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—W. W. TURNER, Esq.

Secretary—John Fairfax, Chairman and Secretary.

Chief Officer—Mort's Buildings, Pitt-street, Sydney.

A USTRALIAN GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY. Office, No. 173, George-street, Sydney. CAPITAL £500,000, in 5000 SHARES.

DIRECTORS:

H. B. Brown, Esq., Chairman.

W. Williams, Esq., Vice-Chairman.

John Alexander, Esq.

W. Thomas, Esq.

Captain Ashmore, Kent-street, North.

ASHTON AND MARSH SURVEYORS for the Poor Newcastle Surveyor for New Zealand—Captain Alexander Grange.

Surveyor for Auckland—Captain Alexander Grange.

London Agent:

Thomas Brown, Esq., 63, Moorgate-street.

The Directors are willing to receive applications for insurance.

Notes of premium by the first day of each month not under forty-five tons, free from average unless general:

Guineas.

Europe—Port Phillip, by sailing ves-

sels, &c. &c. 24

India, China, and Manilla—24

Java—24

Sri Lanka—24

Calcutta and Bengal—24

Malta—24

Australia—24

Ditto, by steamer—24

Potomac—24

SALES BY AUCTION.

Two Days' Sale.
To Drapers, Outfitters, Warehousemen, and others.
207 Packages of Cholos and Seasonable Goods.
Just landed.

MESSRS. CHAS. MOORE and CO. have received instructions from the importers to sell by auction, at their Rooms, Pitt-street, on the above days.

207 packages of ready choice and seasonable goods, just landed, consisting of
Black and pearl mohors
Wool ditto
Coloured colours
7-4 ditto, choice colours
Printed delaines and cashmeres
Circassian
Black and fancy alpacas
Lambs
Camlets
Huddersfield checks
Ditto fancy plaids
Black and white does
Bordure ditto
Wool black cloths
Ditto fine blues, &c.
Fancy mohers
Blue cloths
Ditto devon
Habit cloths
33, 35, and 36 inch grey domestics
72 and 80 inch ditto
Ditto 36 inch grey cordon sheeting
34 and 36 inch shirtings
Ditto ditto medians
Ditto ditto India ditto
Stout and India twills
Herringbone twills
7-8 and 4-6 fancy prints
Ditto navy blues
Scot twill
Drahs and millers' moles
Furnishings, &c.
Ditto ditto
Rolled shirtings
Silesias and carbains
Muslins, fancy and plain
Cotton and flannel
Corded coats
Embroidered ditto
Cotton diapers
Hackabacks, brown and white
Border ditto
Printed ditto
Nursery diapers
Dressed holland
Brown twills
Checkered holland
Brown dress
Tablecloths
White counterpanes
Coloured ditto
Imperial quilts
Flannel ditto
Cotton ticks
Union ditto
Barneby ditto
Imitation Welsh flannels
Satin ditto
Silken ditto
5-4 and 6-6 medium ditto
Patent ditto
Printed druggets.

Terms at sale.

Sundries.

CHATTO and HUGHES have received instructions to sell by auction, at their Sale Room, 242 George-street, on SATURDAY, the 22nd instant, at 11 o'clock.

Boots and shoes
Books
Toys
Bastards
And a great variety of sundries.

Terms, cash.

Primer Notice.

Damaged Tiss.

Groceries

Oilmens' Stores. By

COHEN and HARBOTTE, at the Bank Auction Rooms, on WEDNESDAY next, the 26th March, 1856.

Full particulars in Monday's paper.

Pianofortes

Decks

Dolls

Drawing Cases

Accessories

Dressing Glasses, &c.

COHEN and HARBOTTE, Bank Auction Rooms.

Full particulars will be given.

Earthenware and

Glassware.

Just landed, ex Washington Irving.

COHEN and HARBOTTE will sell, at the Auction Rooms, on THURSDAY next, March 27th, 1856, at 11 o'clock precisely, Thirty-five hogsheads stoneware, comprising:

Plates, 10 inch

Dishes, 10 to 18 inch

Vegetable dishes, 10 inch

Sauces

White and gold china

Breakfast services

Bowls

Desert sets

Jugs

Dinner sets, gold edges

GLASSWARE.

Half-pint tumblers

Dinner glasses

Glass jugs

Cruet frames and cruets

Milk jugs and sugars.

Terms at sale.

Oilmen's Stores.

Account of whom it may concern.

FRITH and PAYTEN will sell by auction, at their Rooms, 41, Pitt-street, on

Tuesday, 25th instant, at 11 o'clock,

Ex Thomas Lowry, Kington, from London.

£1 over 8.

40 to 63 16 cases and Leder's pint pickles, much

damaged

16 ditto ditto, slightly damaged

65 to 75 5-4 quart ditto, much damaged

1 ditto ditto, much damaged

Terms, cash.

Unreserved.

Wines, Spirits, and Beer.

To Wine and Spirit Merchant, Publicans, and Shippers.

FRITH and PAYTEN are instructed by

the importers to sell by auction, at their Rooms,

41, Pitt-street, on TUESDAY, 25th instant, at 11 o'clock.

The following choice and well-selected assortment of

wines, beer, and spirits.

A few barrels of port wine and dark brandy

20 ditto Marcell's dark

40 ditto Marcell's L.M. 30 o.p.

20 hogheads ditto, 30 o.p.

7 ditto E. L. rum, 33 o.p.

20 ditto rum, 10 to 12 o.p.

14 ditto Marcell's ditto

100 cases Geneva

175 old ditto

300 ditto pale brandy (Benassat, Tipping and Co.)

25 ditto ditto (J. S. Sulphur and Co.)

200 ditto ditto (Harwood and Son.)

240 ditto ditto (P. de Sonnerie)

250 ditto ditto (old cognac)

50 ditto ditto (B. Marcell)

50 ditto ditto (old port)

100 ditto ditto (old sherry)

50 ditto still brandy

100 ditto ditto

100 ditto ditto

20 ditto ditto

